

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 05879 191201Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 (ISO) W
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R 190857Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4506

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 5879

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PFOR ET (HAILE SELASSIE, EMPEROR)

SUBJECT: HEALTH OF THE EMPEROR

1. DEPT. WILL KNOW THAT REPORTING FROM ADDIS HAS PRODUCED DISTURBINGLY CONTRADICTIONARY REPORTS ON THE HEALTH OF THE EMPEROR. RECENTLY SOME SOURCES CLOSE TO THE DIRG HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT HIS HEALTH IS DETERIORATING SERIOUSLY, WHILE OTHERS WITH DIRECT ACCESS TO THE EMPEROR HAVE BEEN SAYING THAT HIS HEALTH SEEMS GOOD. BECAUSE WE HAVE OTHER REPORTS THAT SOME DIRG MEMBERS ARE ADVOCATING DOING AWAY WITH HIM, WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT THE ALLEGED ILL HEALTH MIGHT BE A COVER STORY FOR AN IMPENDING EXECUTION.

2. WE NOW HAVE, THROUGH MEDICAL SOURCES WITH DIRECT ACCESS, THE FIRMEST REPORTS YET. MEDICAL ETHICS HAVE PREVENTED US FROM GETTING FULL DETAILS, BUT REPORTS INCLUDING THOSE SOURCED TO ONE NON-ETHIOPIAN PHYSICIAN WHO HAS PERSONALLY EXAMINED THE EMPEROR HAVE PRODUCED THE FOLLOWING (WE THINK DEFINITIVE) FACTS. HE IS SUFFERING FROM A URO-GENITAL TRACT PROBLEM/UREMIA; HE HAS TROUBLE MICTURATING AND MAY HAVE TO UNDERGO AN OPERATION -- PREFERABLY ELSEWHERE; CONSULTATION BY VISITING FOREIGN PHYSICIANS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ADDIS 05879 191201Z

HAS BEEN SUGGESTED; HIS CONDITION IS SUCH THAT VISITORS MIGHT

NOT REALIZE HE HAS AN ILLNESS; AND THE ILLNESS, IF PROPERLY TREATED, NEED NOT THREATEN HIS LIFE. THE EMPEROR FEELS HE IS RECEIVING ADEAUATE MEDICAL CARE. HIS MORALE IS QUITE GOOD UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND HE IS BEING PROVIDED ADEQUATE READING MATERIALS, ETC.

3. WE THINK THAT THIS INFORMATION BRIDGES THE GAP BETWEEN PREVIOUS CONTRADICTORY REPORTS AND THAT THERE IS LITTLE IMMINENT DANGER HE WILL BE EXECUTED BY THE DIRG USING A MEDICAL COVER STORY. WE WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS AS BEST WE CAN.
HUMMEL

SECRET

NNN

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